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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

MAR
12

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

"THE
GIANT IN
CHALLENGER
MOUNTAIN!"

NO! ROCKY--
YOU **MUST** STAY
HERE! YOU'VE
BECOME A
RAMPAGING
MENACE! THE
POLICE WILL
SHOOT YOU
ON SIGHT!



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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



HE WAS MIGHTIER THAN SAMSON... BIGGER THAN GOLIATH... DRIVEN BY SOME UNKNOWN FORCE TOWARD A WEIRD PATTERN OF DESTRUCTION! THAT WAS THE FANTASTIC Foe WHO FACED THE FAMED "LEGION OF DEATH CHEATERS"--AND, WORST OF ALL, IT WAS ONE OF THEIR OWN TEAMMATES WHO HAD BECOME...

the GIANT in CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ABOARD THEIR JET TRANSPORT, FOUR MEN WHO LIVE ON BORROWED TIME ROAR TOWARD A NEW ADVENTURE...

IF OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT, KRAGER IS HIDING OUT IN THE AZUL CAVERNS! WE'VE GOT TO BE ON GUARD--HE'S A TRICKY CHARACTER!

WE CAN HANDLE HIM-- IF THAT NOISE DOESN'T DRIVE US NUTTY FIRST! HEY, ROCKY--KNOCK IT OFF!

SHORTLY...

FOR THE LAST TIME, WILL YOU TURN THAT OFF?

MAN, THIS STUFF INSPIRES ME! I'M GONNA BELT THAT KOOK KRAGER TO A TRUMPET RIFF!



KRAGER! I'M GONNA ROCK YOU TO SLEEP IN 5/8 TIME! YOU'LL BE THE COOLEST CAT IN SLUMBERVILLE!

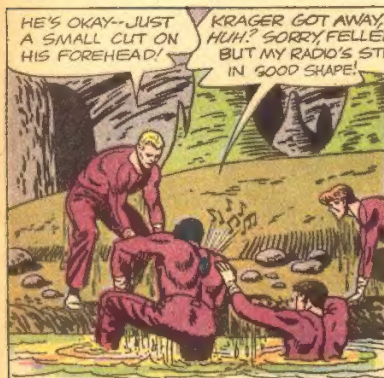
ROCKY--WATCH OUT!



INSTANTLY, THREE FIGURES HURTLE TO THE RESCUE...

WE'LL HAVE HIM OUT IN A JIFFY! WONDER WHAT CAUSES THAT STRANGE COLOR IN THE WATER?





KRAGER GOT AWAY, HUH? SORRY, FELLERS! BUT MY RADIO'S STILL IN GOOD SHAPE!



THAT NIGHT, IN A TOWN NOT FAR FROM CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN...



SECONDS LATER...

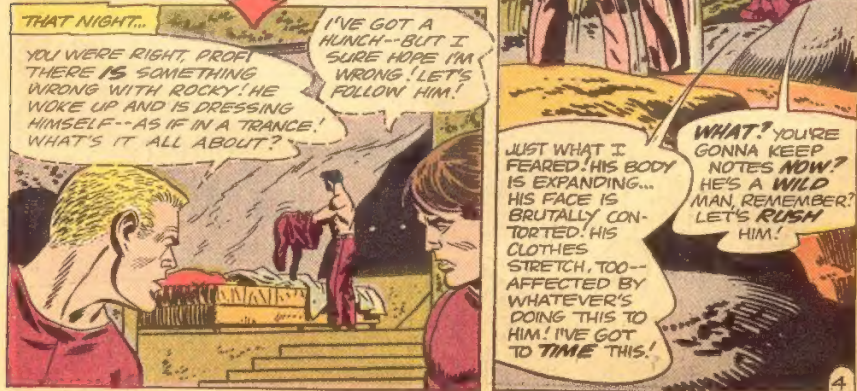
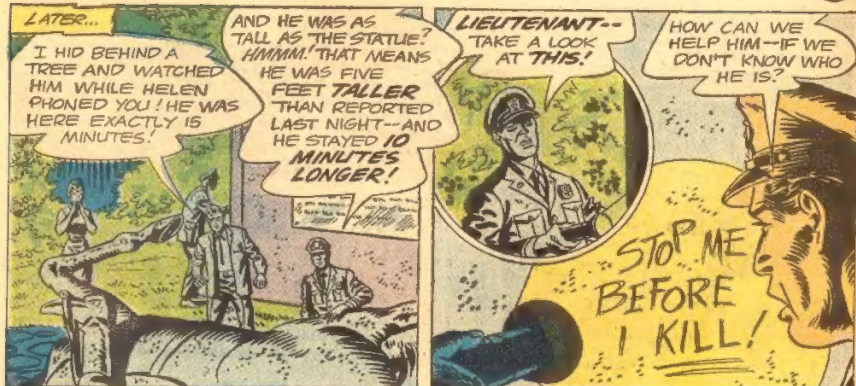
NOT A SINGLE CLUE, EH? CONTACT ALL CARNIVALS AND CIRCUSES! THE BIG GUY MUST BE KNOWN TO THEM!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS A DISTANT CLOCK TOLLS MIDNIGHT...

THIS SHORT CUT WILL GET US ACROSS TOWN-- OH! IT-- IT'S THE MAD GIANT AGAIN! RUN, HELEN. RUN!

CRASH



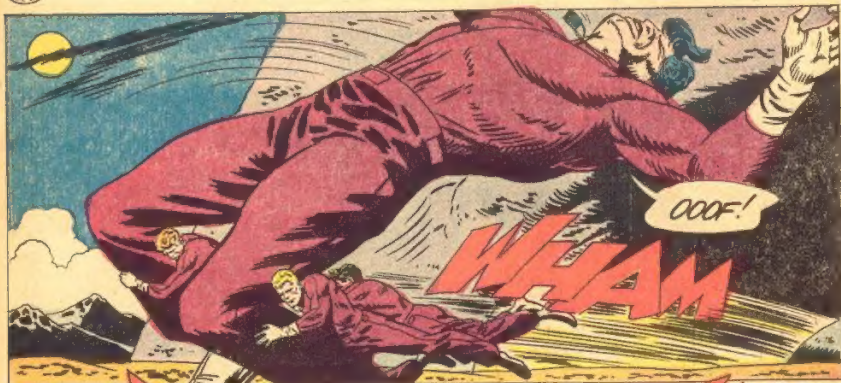
THAT NIGHT...

YOU WERE RIGHT, PROF! THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ROCKY! HE WOKE UP AND IS DRESSING HIMSELF--AS IF IN A TRANCE! WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH--BUT I SURE HOPE I'M WRONG! LET'S FOLLOW HIM!

JUST WHAT I FEARED! HIS BODY IS EXPANDING... HIS FACE IS BRUTALLY CONTORTED. HIS CLOTHES STRETCH, TOO-- AFFECTED BY WHATEVER'S DOING THIS TO HIM! I'VE GOT TO TIME THIS!

WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA KEEP NOTES NOW? HE'S A WILD MAN, REMEMBER? LET'S RUSH HIM!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THEY RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS...

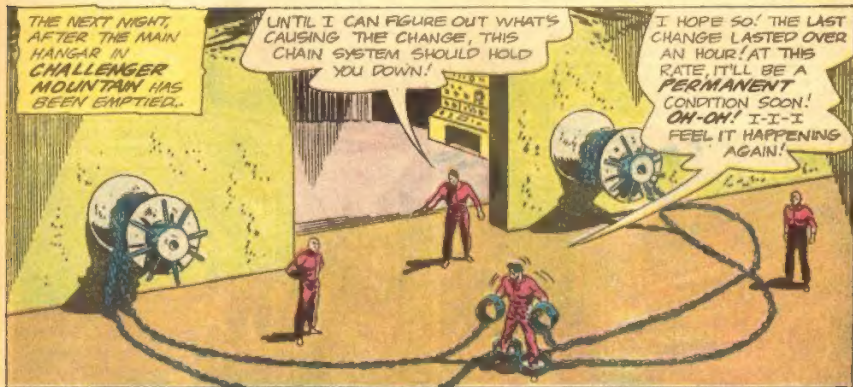
HE'S **GONE!** WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM-- I **MUST** KNOW EXACTLY HOW LONG THE CONDITION LASTS THIS TIME!

WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE POLICE! **THEY** MAY TRY TO KILL HIM!

I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING! IF HE ENDANGERS LIVES, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! IF YOU **CHALLENGERS** HAVE A **BETTER** PLAN, GET DOWN HERE-- **FAST!**









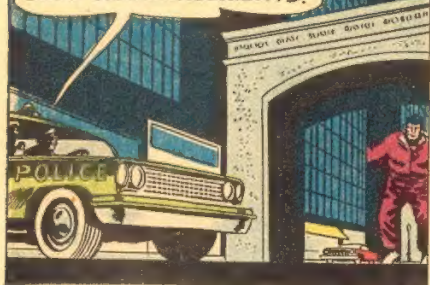
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



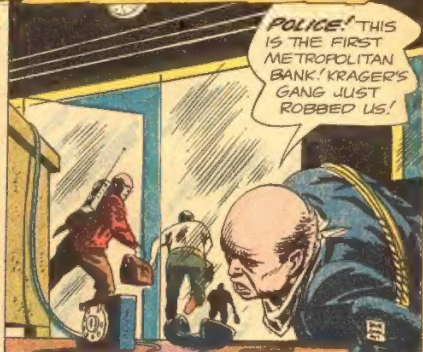
BRUSHING ASIDE THE OTHERS, THE GIANT ROCKY STORMS TOWARDS TOWN AGAIN...

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY BANK...

IT'S THE **GIANT**-- HEADED FOR THE ARMISTICE ARCH! SEND REINFORCEMENTS!



POLICE! THIS IS THE FIRST METROPOLITAN BANK! KRAGER'S GANG JUST ROBBED US!



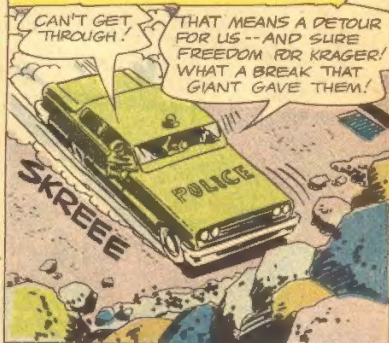
BAROOM!



BUT THE RUBBLE BLOCKS THE HAIL OF BULLETS AS ROCKY LUMBERS OFF...

CAN'T GET THROUGH!

THAT MEANS A DETOUR FOR US--AND SURE FREEDOM FOR KRAGER! WHAT A BREAK THAT GIANT GAVE THEM!



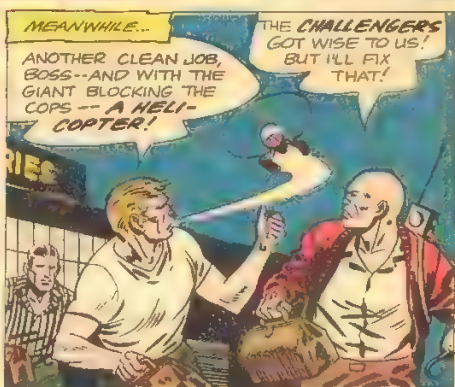
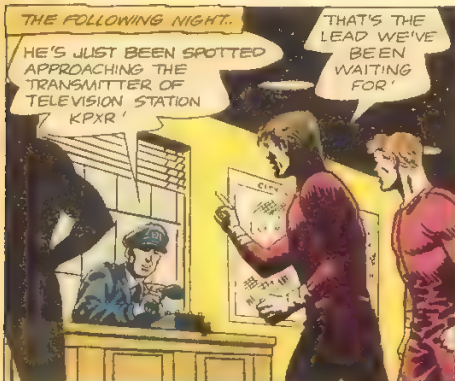
I'M AFRAID IT **WASN'T** A BREAK! I THINK KRAGER'S FOUND SOME WAY TO **COMMAND** ROCKY!

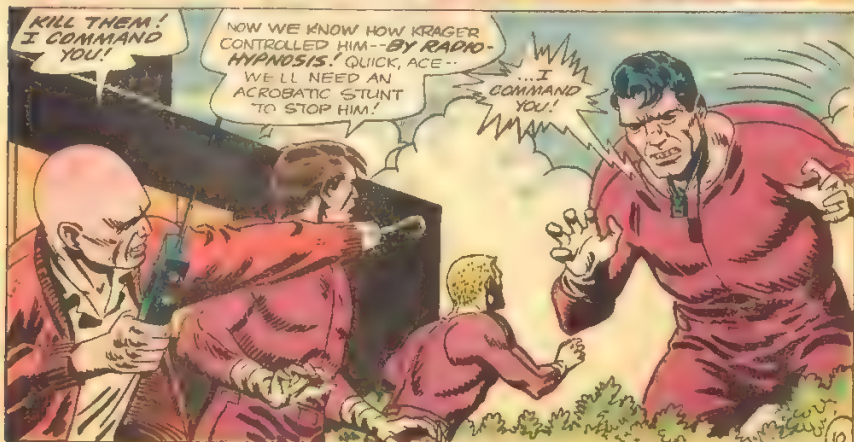
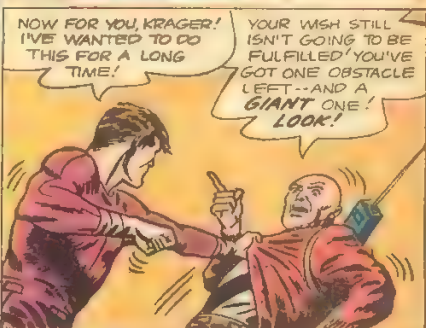
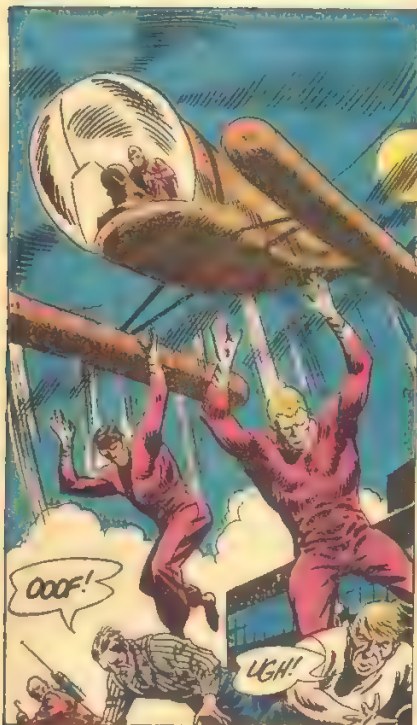
CHECK! THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T RETURN. AFTER THIS LAST RAMPAGE! HE'S WANDERING AROUND OUT THERE, WAITING FOR HIS NEXT ORDER-- BUT THIS TIME **WE'RE** GOING TO USE HIM!

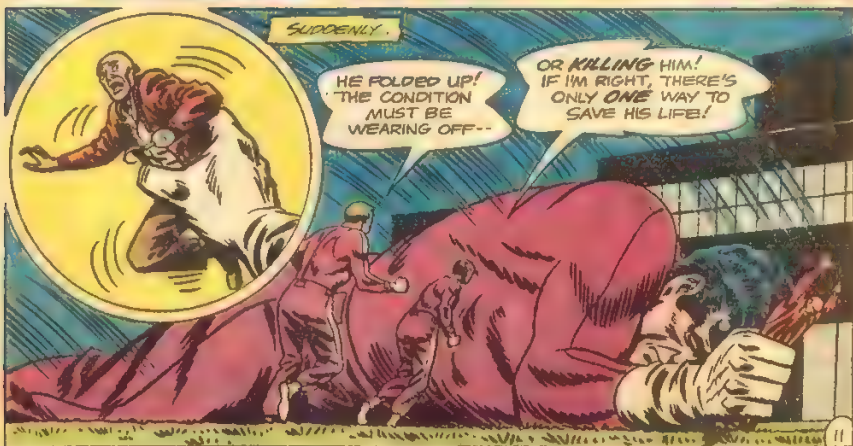




CHALLENGERS OF THE LINKNOWN







NO SOONER DOES ROCKY'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY RETURN TO NORMAL THAN HE IS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL.

THEY'VE BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS!

IT TAKES TIME TO DRAIN EVERY DROP OF BLOOD AND REPLACE IT!



FINALLY, AT DAWN...

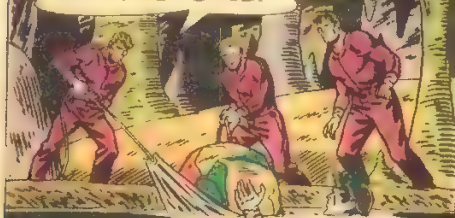
... SO I FIGURED, THE MULTI-COLORED CHEMICAL IN THE UNDERGROUND STREAM GOT INTO THAT CUT ON YOUR FOREHEAD... AND HAD TO BE DRAWN FROM YOUR BLOODSTREAM!

THANKS, FELLERS, BUT THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO BE DONE!



SOME TIME LATER, AT THE AZUL CAVERN...

HERE IT IS -- THE SOURCE OF THAT CHEMICAL! MY GUESS IS IT'S THE REMAINS OF SOMETHING FROM OUTER SPACE!



12

SOON, FAR OUT OVER THE MARIANAS TRENCH IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN...

THERE IT GOES - WHERE IT'LL NEVER CAUSE ANY MORE HARM! NOW IF YOU CATS WILL REPLACE MY PORTABLE RADIO--

NOT ON YOUR LIFE-- BUSTER!



DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
DOWN



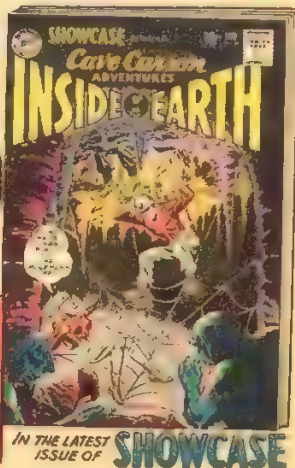
All Curking

YOU PLUNGE INTO THE DARK WORLD OF
INNER SPACE
WITH THE FEARLESS
Cave Carson!

WANTING TO "WELCOME" YOU...
SINISTER MOLL MEN!
DEADLY GIANT INSECTS!
RAMPAGING PREHISTORIC
BEASTS!

INSIDE EARTH

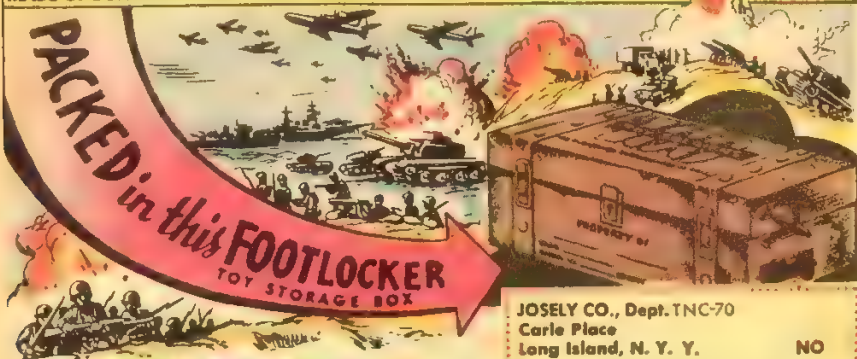
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Special CHRISTMAS Quiz

"Christmas in Many Lands!"

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL)



IN WHAT COUNTRY DO THE CHILDREN MAKE AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE OF WHEAT SHEAVES FOR THE BIRDS?

BREAKING THE PIÑATA IS A CHRISTMAS GAME IN WHICH BLINDFOLDED CHILDREN SMASH A BIZARRE CLAY POT WHICH SPILLS OUT CANDIES AND GOOD-LUCK CHARMS. IN WHAT COUNTRY IS IT PLAYED?



WHERE IS IT THE CUSTOM FOR CHILDREN TO FILL WOODEN SHOES ON CHRISTMAS EVE WITH TIDBITS FOR ST. NICK'S WHITE HORSE?



WHERE IS THE CHRISTMAS FIESTA CLIMAXED BY A GAY DANCE CALLED THE CUECA, PERFORMED OUTDOORS UNDER A SUMMER SKY BY A COWBOY AND A COUNTRY GIRL?



WHERE DO PEOPLE OBSERVE CHRISTMAS BY GATHERING AROUND A LIGHTED COMMUNITY TREE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS?

IN WHAT COUNTRY IS A CHRISTMAS CEREMONY PERFORMED IN WHICH THE MOTHER CLUCKS LIKE A HEN AND HER CHILDREN CHIRP LIKE CHICKENS, WHILE SCATTERING STRAW ON THE FLOOR OF THEIR HOME?

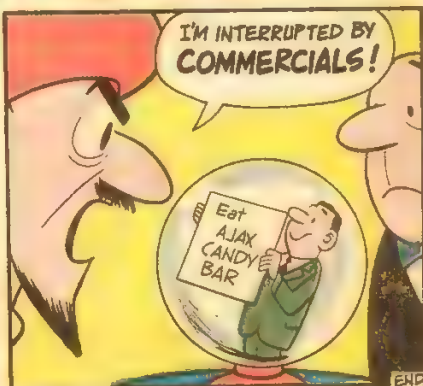
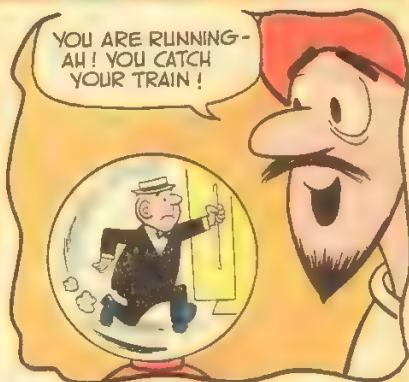
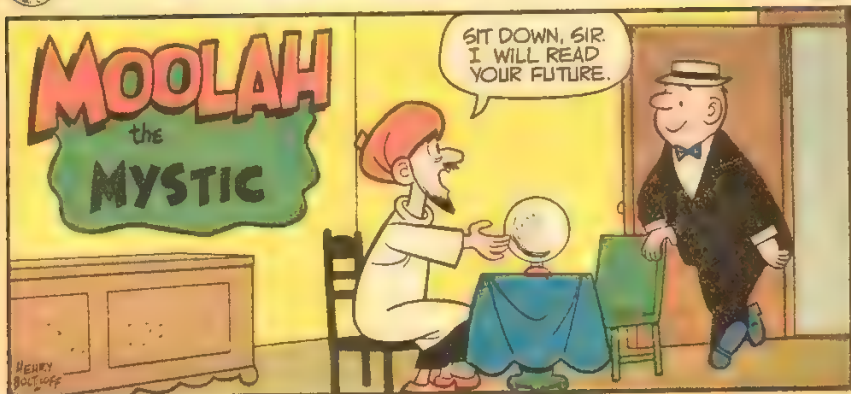


THE ANSWERS...
READ UPSIDE DOWN

1. NORWAY
2. MEXICO
3. BELGIUM
4. UNITED STATES
5. YUGOSLAVIA
6. CHILE



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Editor: Do you realize that you have just pulled the most realistic touch ever published in any comic magazine? In *CHALLENGERS* No. 34, you had the Nazis speaking only in their native tongue—and believe it or not, the story was readily understood! Keep up this kind of ingenious work; *CHALLENGERS* will deserve to be published eight times a year, not that the magazine doesn't deserve it already!

Rick Freeman, Tarzana, Calif.

(Reader Rick's reaction is typical of those that streamed into this office. Instead of the Nazis speaking in broken English, which is the typical fictional device, author France Herron used the unique and revolutionary idea of having them employ German for the sake of realism. Apparently, the idea paid off, for fans enjoyed the novelty, and as Joe Bigley, of Kensington, Md., succinctly summed it up: "*Beachhead, U.S.A.* was just great!") To those, like D. R. Meyer, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who wondered about the content and accuracy of Prof's translation: (1) he obviously heard some of the U-boat commander's speech between panels, omitted for the sake of condensation, and (2) the German speech and English translations were provided by an expert, a former German citizen.

Dear Editor: The November *CHALLENGERS* No. 34 was one of the best yet! Multi-Man is an acceptable regular villain, but I think he should be often replaced by another. Let's have our boys pitted against other hardened, weird earth criminals. May I also suggest that Gaylord Clayburn, "*The Fifth Challenger*," be brought back now and then; that you feature more action-packed battle stories like "*Beachhead, U.S.A.*"; award original artwork for the best letters; don't present June so often.

Bruce Lowery, Van Nuys, Calif.

(The last-mentioned brings up a point worthy of discussing with you. Now and then, we get letters objecting to the intrusion of romance, so we ask you fans: how do you feel about June? After all, she is an honorary Challenger, and the frequency of her appearance is kept at a minimum. Anyway, we'd appreciate hearing from you!)

fan club by Steve Tamerius and friends in Fairbury, Nebr. . . . Ditto a similar unit in Albuquerque, N. M., with George C. Barbera, president; Mike Costellano, vice-president, Tom Quinones, Connie Barbera, Larry Martinez, Leonard Jaramillo, and Leonard Costellano.

Guy Op de Beeck wants to dispose of some of his early *CHALLENGERS*. Write him at 2779 Dudemaine, Montreal 12, Quebec . . . Jonathan Kuntz, Los Angeles, and Charles Yancey, College Park, Md., couldn't suppress their delight with the introduction of Multi-Woman by that weirdie Multi-Man . . . Edward Simpson, 3rd, of Rochester, N. Y., objects to certain letters that we reprint here. To which we reply, "We print 'em as we get 'em, Ed!"

Aside to Lee Finch, Lubbock, Tex., and other readers who may have wondered how Prof could have set off the sprinkler system in a deserted amusement park, in an effort to stop Jacquard: when the park was shut down for the season, someone forgot to turn off the water—and luckily for our boys, too! . . . Dennis Richard, Lawrence, Mass., wants *CHALLENGERS* published not only eight times a year, but as an Annual, too...Private to G. A. Brim of Jacksonville, Fla.: the word, *comics*, is a generic term.

Aberdeen's Tom Jones takes issue with Paul Gambaccini's observation that Bob Brown's art isn't as good as Jack Kirby's. In fact, says Tom, Bob outclasses him by a wide margin. . . . Another vote for an Annual cast by Bill Blotte of Springfield, Ill. . . . According to Bruce McPhee, Anoka, Minn., Multi-Man is the most menacing villain he ever saw. . . . Jeff S. Marsh (address unknown) wants our lads to explore space. . . . Attention, Terence O'Neill of Kensington, Md.: we answered your question in a previous column. . . . We also acknowledge receipt of comments from Gary Bartlett of Stuart, Fla., and Shelby Burns, of Clarkston, Ga.

NOTE TO ALL READERS: A*wow of a yarn coming up in the next issue, temporarily titled, "*The Last Days of the Challengers*." Make sure you reserve your copy now, if you haven't already sent in your subscription!

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE: Chalk up the formation of another

Address all letters to *CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN*, National Periodicals, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

JUMP! IF WE DON'T
HITCH A RIDE ON THAT
WINGED LIZARD BEFORE
IT GAINS ALTITUDE,
THE GIRL'S A GONER!



IN THIS FARAWAY PLACE, WHERE TIME SEEMS TO HAVE STOOD STILL TILL NOW,
THE CHALLENGERS ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE WEB OF A MODERN MURDER-
MYSTERY PLOT WHEN THEY BECOME...

BODYGUARDS TO A STAR



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



BEFORE A FIERY, SMOKING ABYSS, A TYRANNOSAURUS SHAKES ITS 50-FOOT BODY IN A TERRIBLE RAGE, DETERMINED TO DESTROY ITS BRASH AND BUNNY RIDER..

KWRAAGH

HELP!
PLEASE
HELP ME!

SUDDENLY, TWO FIGURES
SWING FROM A HIGH,
VINE-TANGLED TREE.

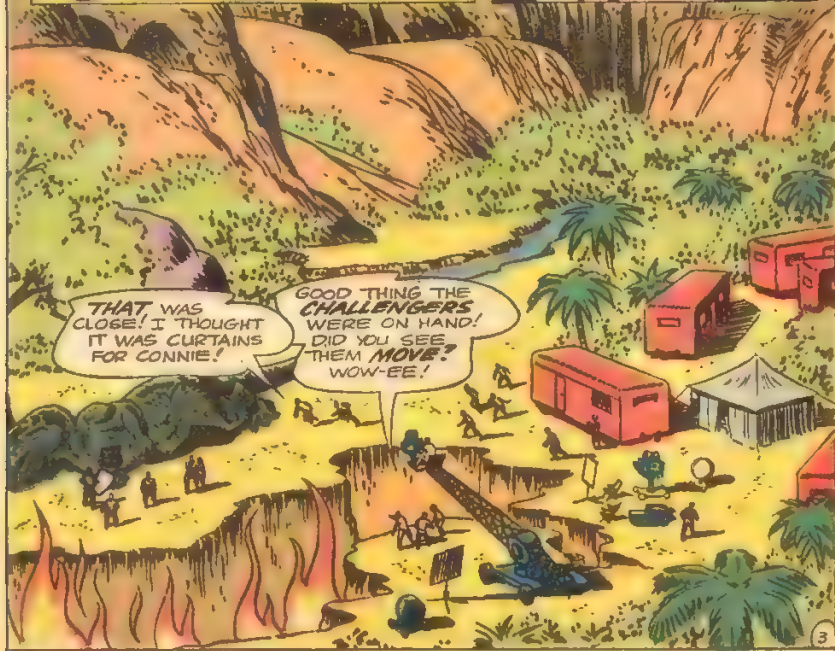
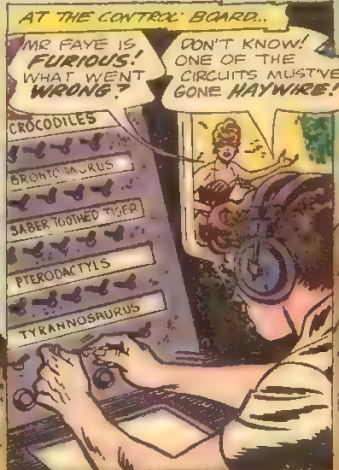
GOT HER, PROF--AND
JUST IN TIME! THAT
TYRANNO'S ABOUT
TO TOPPLE
INTO THE
ABYSS...

WRRRAAGH

BUT ON THE GROUND, TWO
OTHERS SPARE THE "BEAST,"
SENDING IT REELING BACK..

WE CAUGHT
HIM OFF-
BALANCE
AND
FLIPPED
HIM,
ROCKY!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-
ING AT THE
CONTROL BOARD?
HAS THE
OPERATOR GONE
INSANE?





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



AMONG THOSE WHO RACE TO THE STAR ARE THREE VERY EXCITED MEN..

MARK FAYE, THE PICTURES
PRODUCER...

CONNIE!



HER LEADING MAN
DANE CARY, LINKED
ROMANTICALLY WITH
HER ON AND OFF THE
SCREEN

DARLING!



AND THE PRESS AGENT,
"TELETYPE" THOMPSON...

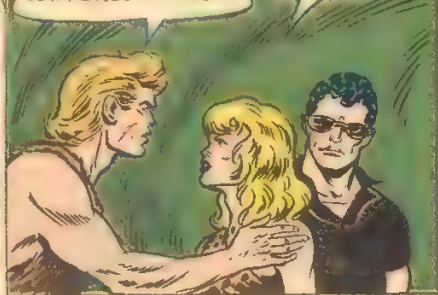
WHAT A STORY! "STAR
ESCAPES DINOSAUR
DEATH!" IT'LL MAKE HEAD-
LINES ALL OVER THE
WORLD!



I TOLD ... E SHOULD'VE
USED A STAND-IN FOR THAT
DINOSAUR RIDE! IT WAS
ALMOST ALMOST **DISASTROUS!**



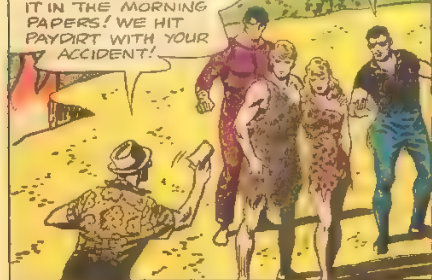
DARLING! I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN HERE!
IF ANYTHING HAD
HAPPENED TO YOU--



YES.. OF
COURSE,
DANE...

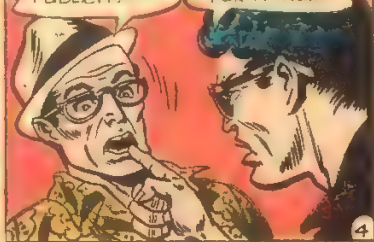
I'LL HAVE THE STORY ON THE
PHONE IN AN HOUR, AND
YOUR ADMIRING PUBLIC
WILL READ ALL ABOUT
IT IN THE MORNING
PAPERS! WE HIT
PAYDIRT WITH YOUR
ACCIDENT!

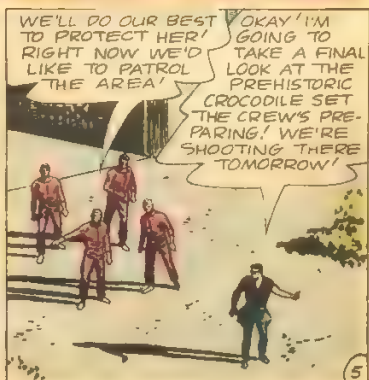
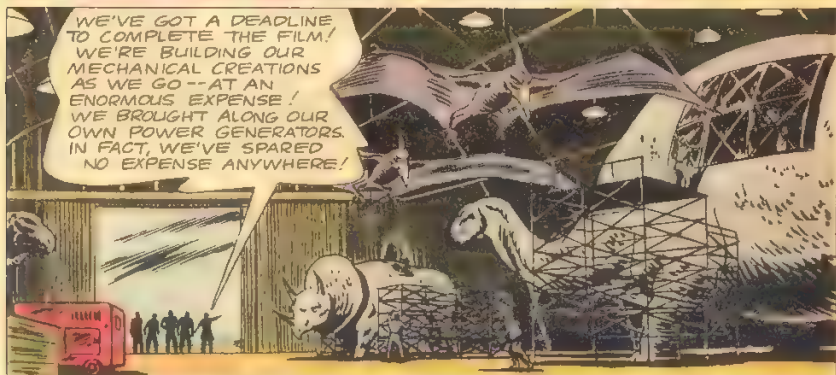
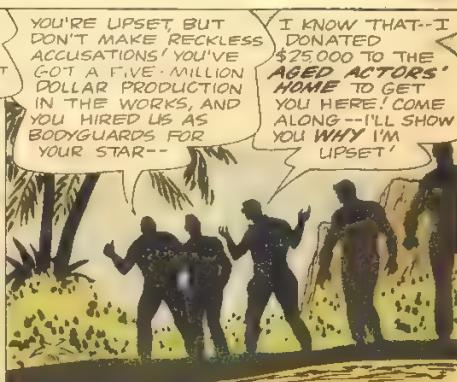
HOLD ON,
THOMPSON!

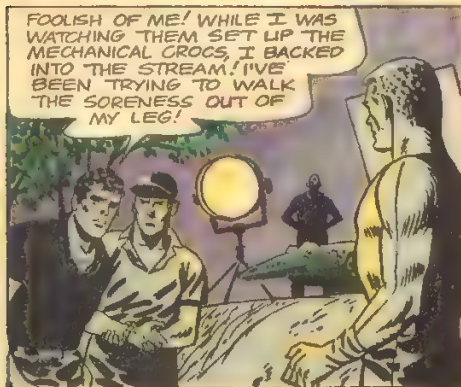
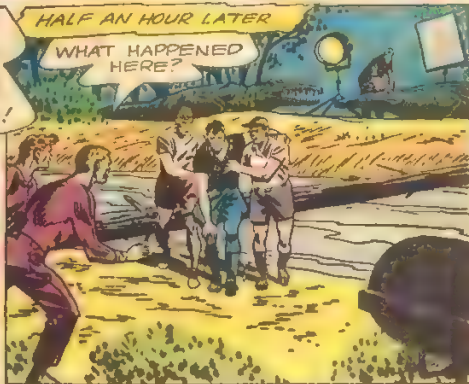
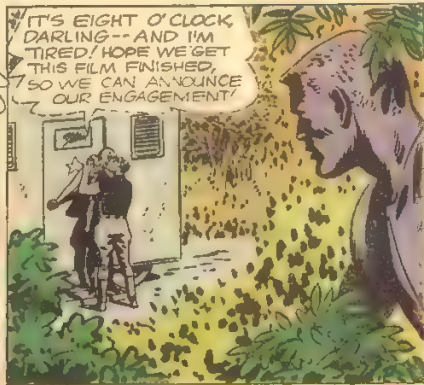
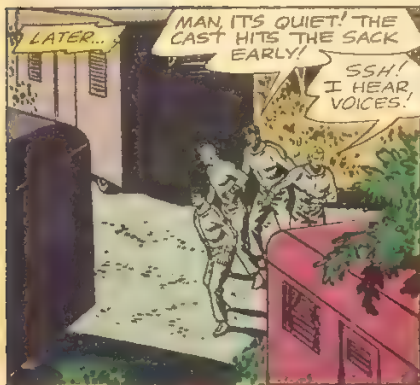


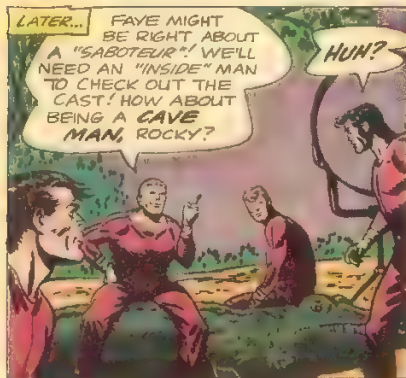
WHAT'S UP? IF WE
WANT TO BUILD
UP OUR MOVIE,
"QUEEN OF
THE CAVE
MEN,"
WE NEED THIS
PUBLICITY!

I DON'T THINK
WHAT HAPPENED
WAS AN
ACCIDENT!
SOMEONE PLANNED
IT MAYBE **YOU!**
YOU'D DO **ANYTHING**
FOR A STORY!

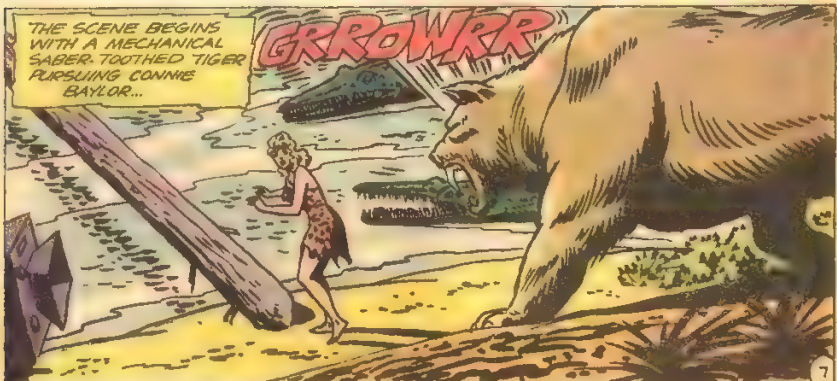








AS THE CHALLENGERS LEAVE, A SHADOWY FIGURE GLIDES FROM THE THICKETS...

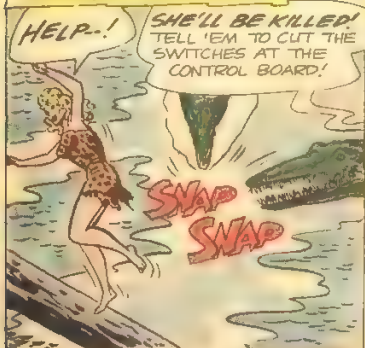




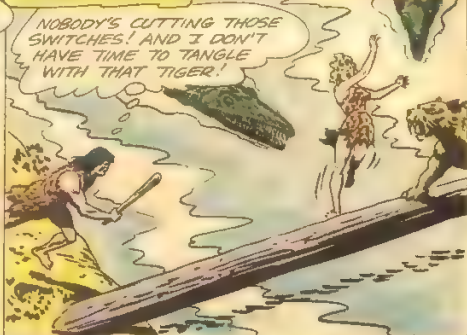
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



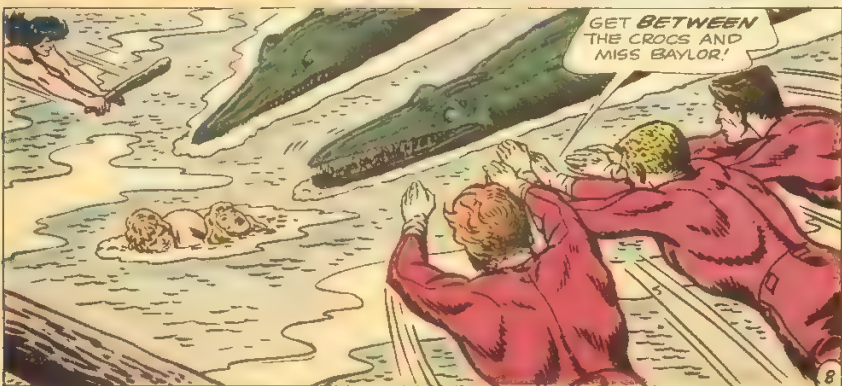
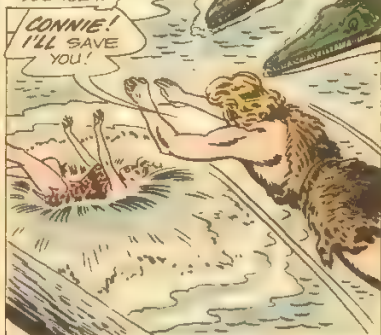
SUDDENLY, SHE SLIPS, AND...



FROM THE FAR SIDE, ONE OF THE "EXTRAS" MOVES QUICKLY...

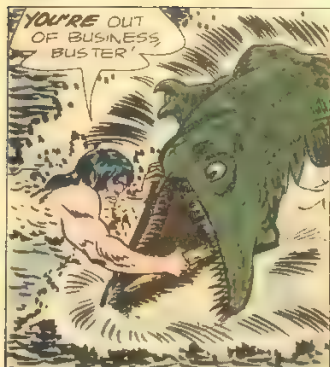


HELP ALSO COMES FROM ANOTHER SOURCE...

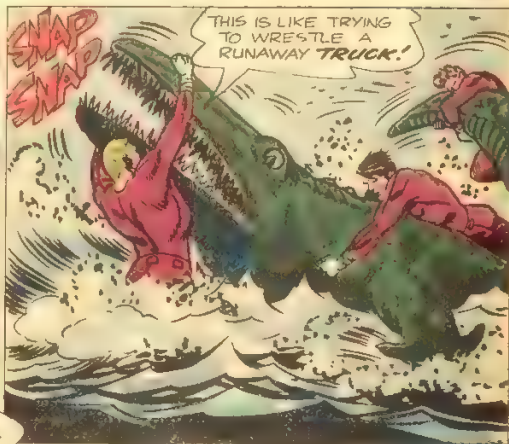




CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



"YOU'RE OUT OF BUSINESS, BUSTER!"



SNAP SNAP

"THIS IS LIKE TRYING TO WRESTLE A RUNAWAY TRUCK!"

AND AT THE CONTROL BOARD...

"CAN'T YOU STOP THOSE BLASTED THINGS?"

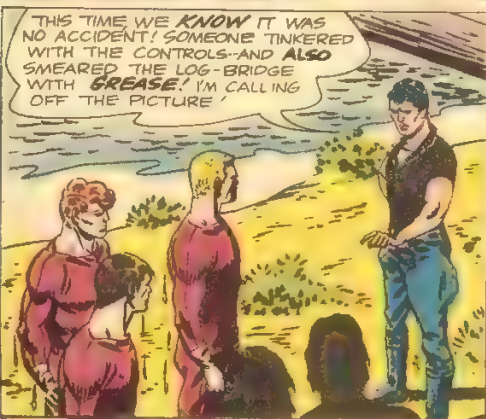
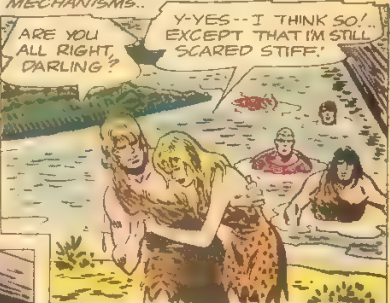
"I JUST DID, MR. FAVE--BY TURNING OFF THE MAIN POWER SWITCH! SOMEONE TAMPERED WITH THE CONTROL DIALS DURING THE NIGHT!"



WITH THE CURRENT OFF, THE FEAR-SOME CROCS BECOME MOTIONLESS MECHANISMS..

"ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DARLING?"

"Y-YES--I THINK SO! EXCEPT THAT I'M STILL SCARED STIFF!"



"THIS TIME WE *KNOW* IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! SOMEONE TINKERED WITH THE CONTROLS--AND ALSO SMEARED THE LOG-BRIDGE WITH *GREASE*! I'M CALLING OFF THE PICTURE!"

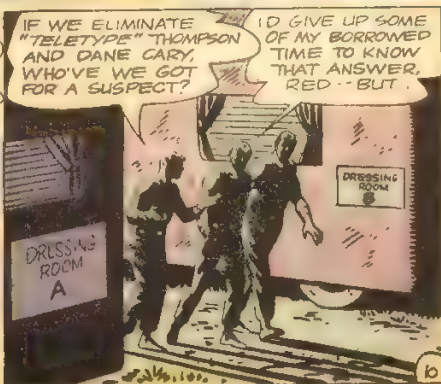
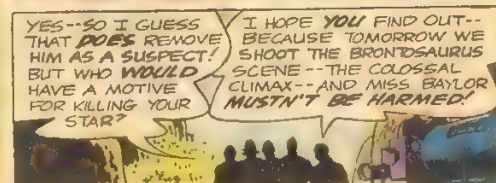
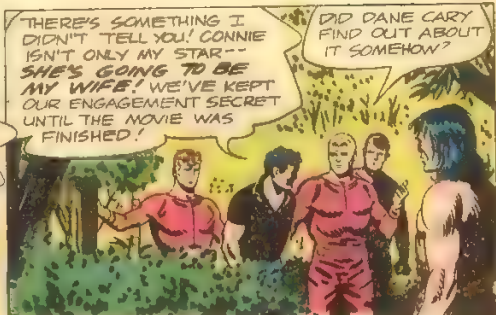
"YOU CAN'T DO THAT-- YOU'LL LOSE EVERY PENNY--"

"NO, CONNIE--I THINK HE'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T GO ON RISKING YOUR LIFE-- ESPECIALLY WITH SOMEONE OUT TO GET YOU!"



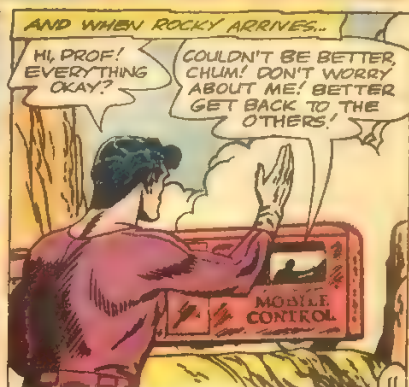
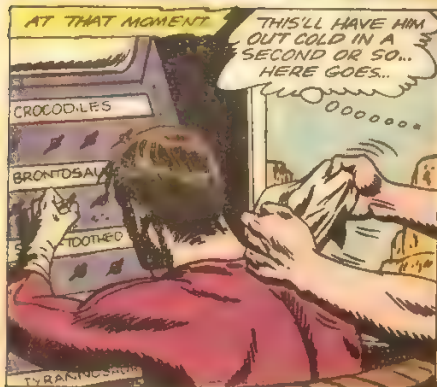
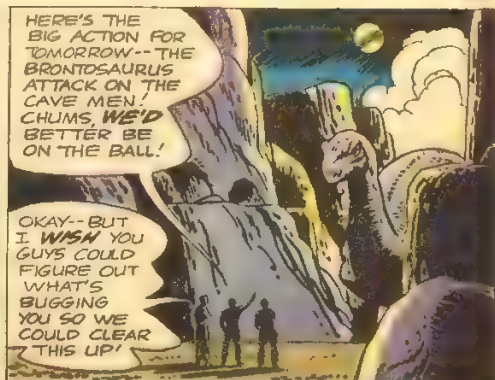


CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



WHAT'S GOING ON? THE PTERODACTYLS AREN'T IN THIS SCENE! WHAT'S PROOF DOING?

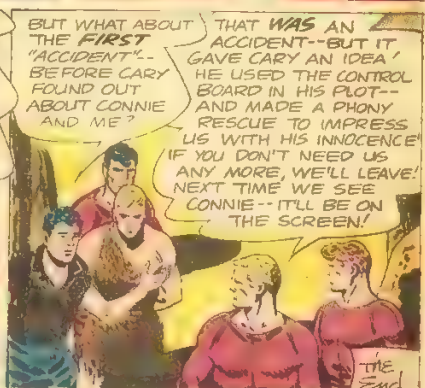
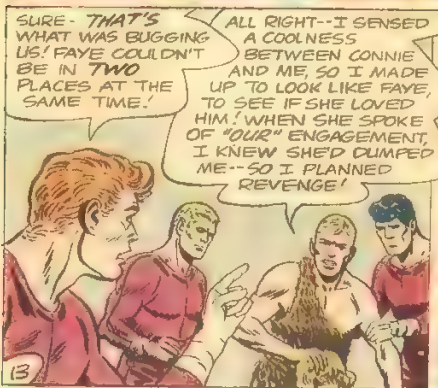
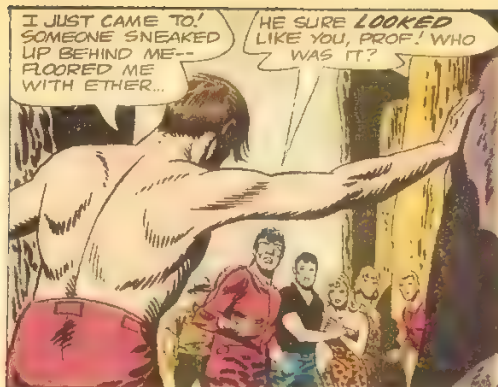
R-ROWRR

I JUST LEFT HIM! HE WAS OKAY!

IF THAT FLYING LIZARD GETS HER IN THE AIR--COME ON--JUMP FOR IT!

OUR COMBINED WEIGHT MIGHT FORCE IT TO THE GROUND-- IF WE CAN FIGHT OFF THOSE OTHERS!

I RIPPED OUT THE MAIN CURRENT WIRE, MR FAYE! THE MECHANICAL PTERODACTYLS HAVE NO MORE POWER! LOOK--THEY'VE BEGUN TO DROP!



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(Act of Oct. 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, U.S. Code)

1. Date of Filing: October 1st, 1963.
2. Title of Publication: CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN.
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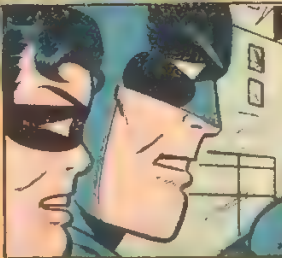
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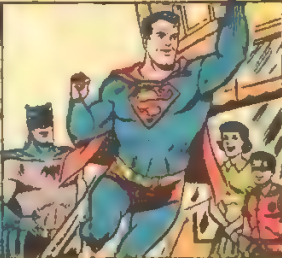
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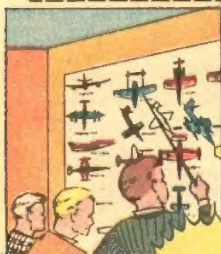
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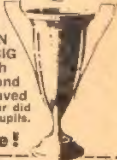
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